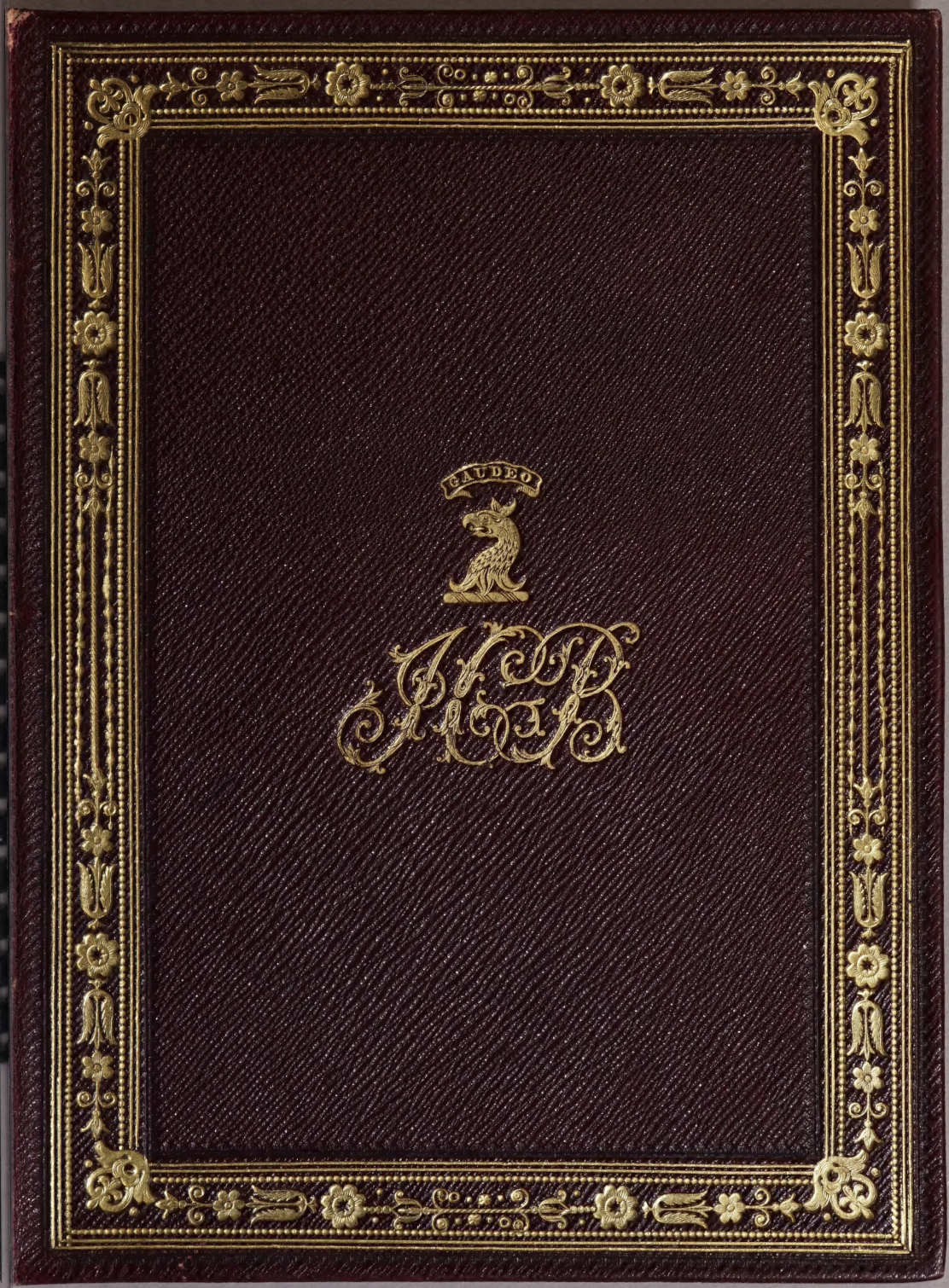
GAUDEO

John Carter Brown.

Гетманъ № 1058.

A NARRATIVE OF The Proceedings OF Sir Edmond Androſſe and his Complices,

Who Acted by an Illegal and Arbitrary Commiſſion from the Late K. *JAMES*, during his Government in

New England.

By ſeveral Gentlemen who were of his Council.

Printed in the Year 1691.

RPJCB

JOHN CARTER BROWN

TO THE READER.

THE Particulars mentioned in the enſuing Narrative, are but a ſmall part of the Grievances juſtly complained of by the People in New England, during their three years Oppreſsion under Sir E. A. For a more full Account, the Reader is referred to the Juſtification of the Revolution in New England, where every particular exhibited againſt Sir Ed. and his Complices, by the Agents lately ſent to England, is by the Affidavits of honeſt men confirmed. If ſome men find themſelves thereby expoſed to the juſt Reſentments and Indignation of all true Chriſtians, or true Engliſh men, they muſt thank themſelves for publiſhing ſuch untrue Accounts as that which goes under the name of Captain John Palmers, and that ſcandalous Pamphlet called N. E's Faction diſcovered, ſuppoſed to be written by an Implacable Enemy of all good men, and a perſon that for Impudence and Lying has few Equals in the World. This which follows, being ſigned by ſeveral Gentlemen of great Integrity, who likewiſe had a particular knowledge of the things by them related, is therefore of unqueſtionable Credit. The Deſign in making of it thus publick, is to vindicate Their Majeſties Loyal Subjects in New England, and to give a true Repreſentation of things unto thoſe who have by falſe Relations been impoſed on.

B. N. E. *Feb.* 4. 169$\frac{8}{9}$

HAving Received from Mr. *Addington* by order of the *Council and Repreſentatives of the Maſſachuſetts Colony*, a ſignification of their deſire; That whereas we were Members of the Late Council in the time of Sir *Edmond Androſſes Government*, we would give ſome Information of the *Grievances and Male-adminiſtrations* under the ſame. Upon conſideration had thereof, and in anſwer thereunto, we cannot but own and declare, that *not only our ſelves, but many others in the ſame ſtation* (not now preſent to joyn with us) were of a long time much *diſſatisfied* and *diſcouraged with very many of the Proceedings and Adminiſtrations in the ſaid Government*; and had little reaſon to wonder that ſo great a number of the People were ſo too. It might well have been expected that the Governour (not ſo ſucceſsful heretofore) notwithſtanding the extraordinarineſs (to ſay no more) of many Clauſes and Powers in his Commiſſion; yea the rather and the more, becauſe thereof would have cautioned and moderated the Execution of the ſame: But to our Great Trouble we found it very much otherwiſe. Many were the things that were accounted Irregular and Grievous therein, far from conducing to the Publick Weal of the Territory, and not a little to the diſſervice of the Crown, as tending rather to the diſturbing and diſaffecting of the Subjects here, than to the furtherance of that chearful Obedience, Loyalty, Love and Duty in them, which ought by all good means, to have been nouriſhed and promoted. And of all this unhappineſs, we muſt reckon the firſt ſtep and in-let to be, that *the Governour did* ſo quickly neglect the great number of the Council, and *chiefly adhere unto and Govern by the advice* only of a few others, the principal *of them Strangers to the Countrey, without Eſtates or Intereſt therein to oblige them, perſons of known and declared Prejudices againſt us, and that had plainly laid their chiefeſt Deſigns and Hopes to make unreaſonable profit of this poor People.* Innumerable were the evil Effects that from hence were continually growing up amongſt us; *The Debates in Council were not ſo free as ought to have been*, but too much over-ruled, and a great deal of harſhneſs continually expreſſed againſt Perſons and Opinions that did not pleaſe. *The Greateſt*

Rigour

Rigour and Severity was too often used towards the sobereſt sort of People, when any thing could be found or pretended againſt them, their humble ſubmiſſions were little regarded, and *inexorable Perſecutions ordered againſt them*, whilſt in the mean time *the notorious viciouſneſs and profaneneſs of others met not with* the like *diſcountenance*, but perſons of ſuch a character were put into places of buſineſs and truſt. The long ſettled maintenance of the Publick Miniſtry, even from thoſe that applied themſelves to no other way of Worſhip, but continued ordinary hearers, could not be upheld by any act of Authority providing for the ſame, and Schools of Learning ſo well taken care of formerly, were in moſt places fallen to decay, and many more ſuch like might be reckoned up. But we ſhall more eſpecially inſtance farther in the particulars following, as not the leaſt.

1. *And firſt*; It was as we thought a great ſlight put upon the Council, and to the prejudice of the good People of the Territory, That whereas at the Governours firſt coming a Committee appointed thereunto by himſelf, and a full Council had with great care and ſeveral weeks trouble reviſed a very conſiderable number of Orders and Laws collected out of the ſeveral Law-Books of theſe Colonies found by long experience very needful and agreeable to the good of theſe Plantations, which Laws ſo Collected and Reviſed, were again preſented unto, and upon further adviſement approved by the Governour and Council and paſſed. Yet upon the introducing Mr. *Weſt* from *New York* to be Deputy Secretary, they were, for what cauſes we know not, totally laid aſide, and the People denied the benefit of them. And this Grievance was ſo much the greater, and a plainer Indication of the ſeverity of ſome men in their Intended Management of things, becauſe on good deliberation there had alſo paſſed an Order of Council, That until the Council ſhould take further order, the ſeveral Juſtices, Town-Officers, and others ſhould proceed according to former Uſages, and ſuch Local Laws in the ſeveral parts of this Dominion, as are not repugnant to the Laws of *England*, *&c.* Yet becauſe by virtue of the ſaid Order ſome in Authority have proceeded to put forth their power for the ſupport of the Miniſtry, and ſome others did juſtifie themſelves in ſome actions done by them that were not pleaſing; hereupon

hereupon when a diſcourſe only, and ſome debate thereof had paſſed in Council but *without any regular determination made*, and contrary to the expreſs words of the ſaid Order, *it was Entred in the Council-Book* concerning it, reſolved that the ſame was only in Force till the next Seſſion of the Council, and ſo determined as null of it ſelf, and that none preſume to act purſuant to ſuch Laws as are or ſhall be made here.

2. *Whereas* the Act for the Continuing and Eſtabliſhing of ſeveral Rates, Duties and Impoſts was one of the firſt of ſo great Moment that came out in Form under the Seal of the Territory, and was publickly proclaimed, we that were preſent have great cauſe to remember what trouble and diſſatisfaction there was amongſt the Members of the Council concerning the ſame. As that Act was framed and urged upon us, *a very conſiderable number (and we believe we were the Major part) diſſented* from and argued much againſt it. And tho the Governor expreſſed not a little heat and poſitiveneſs alledging his inſtructions, and held the Council together, unreaſonably a very long time about it. Yet when we did at laſt break up we could not imagine that he could take the Bill to be agreed to; *Nevertheleſs it was the next day (to our wonderment) brought in fairly Engroſſed in Parchment, and quickly Signed by the Governour without any counting of Voices* either then or the day before, which was the more needful becauſe ſome did continue ſtill to make their objections, others that had ſpoken againſt the Bill the day before, declaring their adherence to what they had then ſaid; and many more under ſo great diſcouragement and diſcountenance, as was manifeſted ſitting ſilent, which we are ſure in the regular paſſing of Laws can never be reckoned for a conſent.

3. *The Way* and Manner uſed afterwards of propoſing and paſſing all Laws was very uncertain and unequal, not anſwerable to the Nature of ſo great a Power, nor to the largeneſs of the Territory that was to be obliged by them, or to the Number of the Concellors appointed therein; for after a little while there were no ſet times appointed or given notice of for the making of Laws, that ſo the Members of the Council might attend in a fuller number to be helpful therein. Bills of the greateſt concernment

cernment were usually first consulted and framed in private, and so unexpectedly brought into Council at any time, and then our work too was often under great disadvantages, not to advise freely and consult about the making of a Law thought necessary but to maintain a sort of Contest in opposition to a very inconvenient one, too far promoted and engaged in already; and above all, *there was never any fair way of taking and counting the number of the Councellors consenting and dissenting*, that so the Majority might be known in any matter that admitted of any considerable reasonings and debates, by reason whereof both Laws and other Orders and Resolutions might be set down as passed by the Council, which ought not to have been. And when it hath been (as often it was) expresly and earnestly prayed when matters of greater moment than ordinary were in hand, that the Debate and Resolution of them might be put off till a fuller Council of Members from other several parts of the Dominion might be Convened, such motions were ever disaccepted, and entertained with no little displacency; *so that it might be too truly affirmed, that in effect four or five persons, and those not so favourably inclined and disposed as were to be wished for, bear the Rule over, and gave Law to a Territory the largest and most considerable of any belonging to the Dominion of the Crown.*

4. *In pursuance* of this way and manner of passing Laws above expressed, there were two in special that came forth, which we are sure in fuller and freer Councils would have had a full stop put to them; *viz. First*, The Act for Regulating the Choice of select Men, *&c.* wherein the Liberty of Towns to meet for the managing of their Publick Affairs referring to their Common Lands, and all other their concernments, which they had enjoyed for so many years, to their great benefit, was most unreasonably restrained to once a year, and all other Convening of Inhabitants as a Town Meeting upon any pretence or colour whatsoever, was strictly forbidden: And the other Act was that intituled, An Act requiring all Masters of Ships or Vessels to give security, in which there were such restraints laid upon all persons from Transporting themselves freely (as their occasions might call) out of the Territory, That it would have been

been a meer Prison to all that should be found therein, and such Bond required of all Ships and Vessels (extending in the practice even to Shallops and Wood-Boats) as would quickly have intolerably discouraged, if not ruined the Trade thereof; and all without any other ordinary general benefit of the said Act, but the filling some mens Pockets with Fees: And (as it might be thought from the time of moving for this Act, which was when Captain *Hutchinson* was already gone, and Mr. *Mather was known to be intending for* England) *the obstructing of such mens going home as were likely there to make just Complaints, and seek Redress of Publick Grievances*; and when this Act had been strenuously opposed in Council here at *Boston*, where it was more than once vehemently urged, and as often denied, *it was carried as far as* New York, *and there an opportunity found for the obtaining of it.*

5. *The* great matter of Properties and Titles to our Lands is the next to be insisted on, His Majesty that granted the Charter did fully invest the Patentees with Right to the Soil throughout the whole Limits thereof, and here on the place, the Right of the Natives was honestly purchased from them. The Disposal, Distribution, and Granting of Lands by the Patentees, who were also incorporated, and made a Body Politick, was in such a plain, ready, easie way, without any charge to the Planters, as in the Settlement of so large a Countrey was thought to be most agreeable: And so much of a publick spirit and design were those Noble Gentlemen, that (though well they might) they settled not one single Penny of service or acknowledgment to themselves and Heirs in any of their Grants, a thing so self-denying and worthy, that few Instances can be given of the like. All which notwithstanding, and the Possessions, Descents and Valuable Purchases of so many years that have passed since, *The Governour and those he adhered to, resolved and practised to make all mens Titles in effect quite null and void.* The purchasing of the Natives Right, was made nothing of, and next to a Ridicule. The Enjoyment and Improvement of Lands not inclosed, and especially if lying in common amongst many was denied to be possession; it was not enough that some men that thought it convenient, and were both willing and able, did take Confirmations of their Lands, the numbers of whom in time might have

have been a considerable gain to them; but *nothing would satisfie unless all in general might be compelled so to do; hence those that refused were declared Intruders upon His Majesty, and put in fear of having their Lands granted unto strangers.* Many were Solicited, and Encouraged to Petition for other mens Lands, and had a shameful Example set them by some of the chief Contrivers of all this Mischief. *When some men have Petitioned for a confirmation of their own Lands, a part of these only was offered to be granted to them, and another part denyed.* Nor could any mans own Land be confirmed to him, without a particular Survey of every part and parcel of them first made, the great charges whereof, and of other Fees to be taken would have been to most men Insupportable: *Yea it hath by some been computed that all the money in the Countrey would not suffice to patent the Lands therein contained.*

And yet farther, a considerable quit-rent to the King was to be Imposed upon all Lands, though already a constant yearly Tax for the support of the Government had been laid on them.

And for all this most unreasonable vexation to a Laborious and Industrious people, the only Ground pretended was some defects and wants of form and due manner alledged to be in the way of the disposing and conveying of all Lands from the Patentees to the Townships and People here; which whatever it amounted to might have been easily remedied, either by an application and representation to the King for the obtaining a General settlement of all properties (which would have been highly Worthy and Generous for the Governour to have engaged in, on behalf of the People) or by some other ways that were proposed. But nothing but the way of particular Patenting as aboveſaid could prevail. In prosecution whereof all Actions intended upon Informations of Intrusions in His Majesties behalf, or between old Proprietors and new Grantees must have had their Decision at the Ordinary Courts of Common Law here upon the Place where matters of Equity and of a Consideration Transcending all ordinary Cases could not have a proper Cognizance and due Influence in the Decision, Determination and Judgment.

6. *Though* sufficient Courts of Justice were appointed, and held in the several Counties for the Tryal of all Offenders, yet it

was too frequent upon more particular displeasure to fetch up persons from very remote Counties before the Governour and Council at Boston (who were the highest, and a constant Court of Record and Judicature) not to receive their tryal but only to be examined there, and so remitted to an Inferior Court to be farther proceeded against. *The Grievance of which Court was exceeding great*, for hereby not only the Charge, was made Excessive upon such persons by the *notorious exactions of the Messenger*, the Secretaries Fees for Examination, *&c.* But these Examinations themselves were unreasonably strict, and rigorous and very unduely ensnaring to plain unexperienced men. *And* the Tryals of several, were by this means over-ruled to be at *Boston*, and not in the proper Counties, and were otherwise so far prejudged as to be rendred less equal.

The Extraordinary Oppressive Fees taken in all matters by indigent and exacting Officers, these were at the first for a long time Arbitrarily imposed and required without any colour of an Establishment of them by the Council. Afterwards a Committee was appointed, to bring in a Table of Fees, that spent a long time without finishing any thing, the reason whereof was because some therein *especially the Deputy Secretary West*, insisted upon Fees, much more extraordinary than some others could consent to. In conclusion; There was a Table of Fees drawn up to be presented to the Council, and signed by some of the Committee, one of whom (whose Subscription is to this Paper) declaring expresly, that by his Signing he did no otherwise agree, but only that it might be presented to the Council, to do therein as they should see cause, who also when it was so presented to the Council, declared that many of the particulars in that Table contained were unreasonable, and ought to be abated, and of this mind were many others. But the Entry after the usual manner was an approbation thereof.

Lastly, As to those *Great Jealousies and Suspicions of Sinister Designs in the Governour as to our Troubles by the Indians*, we have to say, That although divers things too uncertain, if not untrue, have been too easily reported and spread concerning him, a practice which some of us have formerly with no little prejudice to

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our ſelves diſcountenanced and born Teſtimony againſt; yet *there have not wanted ſome other particulars that might give too great a ground for the ſame.* The principal of them (as far as we have any knowledge of things of that kind) are theſe.

The Governours *Seizing and Taking away the Goods of Mounſieur St.* Caſtine *of* Penopſcot, the Summer before the War broke forth, which thing hath been eſteemed not a little to have ſtirred up and furthered the ſucceeding Troubles. The Governours not haſtening his Return to *Boſton* when theſe Troubles were actually begun, but lengthening out his Tarrience in places ſo remote till the Hoſtility of the *Indians*, and the great Miſchiefs thereof were too far advanced. That during his abſence, he was not pleaſed ſufficiently to impower and inſtruct any to act things neceſſary for the ſafety of the out Plantations and the Proſecution and Suppreſſion of the Enemy, tho' he had ſpeedy and true Accounts from time to time ſent him of all that happened. That all that was done to this purpoſe in a caſe of ſuch neceſſity, either by the Lieutenant Govenour, or by the Juſtices of Peace, and Military Officers in many places, by ſecuring and diſarming of Neighbouring *Indians*, ſetting up Warding and Watching, Garriſoning ſeveral houſes for the ſecurity of the Inhabitants, eſpecially the Women and Children, in caſe of ſudden Inroads and Surprizings that might be, ſending ſome relief of men to ſome places that were moſt in danger, and alſo what was done by thoſe Members of the Council that were at *Boſton* in conjunction with the Commander in chief left in the Fort there, who raiſed and ſent ſome Forces to *Caſco-Bay*, where greateſt harms were done. We ſay, that all that was thus done, was ſo extreamly diſapproved of by the Governour upon his Return back from *Albany* and *New York*, and an unaccountable diſpleaſure manifeſted againſt all perſons that had ſo acted, and that he was ready to call them to an account as high Offenders for the ſame, and refuſed a long time, tho' much ſolicited, to give any Order concerning the Souldiers ſent to *Caſco*, either for the continuance of them there, where they were very neceſſary, or for their dimiſſion home. Unto all which may be added the Governours ſending Meſſengers both *John Smith* the Quaker from *Albany*, and ſoon after Major *Macgregory* to *Keybeck* upon ſuch Errands and Buſineſs as were not

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communicated and laid open to the Council. And further, *his Relaſe and ſetting at liberty ſundry* Indians *that were in hold, ſome of them known Enemies to the* Engliſh, and particularly objected againſt by ſeveral of the Council, and that without any exchange of our *Engliſh* Captives then in the Enemies hands.

Theſe are the chief Matters which upon this occaſion (without any undue Prejudice againſt any man, or deſign to juſtifie the defects of our ſelves in the performance of our own ſhares of duty, but in anſwer to the deſire ſignified to us as above) we have to ſet forth, profeſſing truly that by ſuch a ſtate of things as we had the experience and feeling of; The Places that we held were rendred exceeding uneaſie to us, and that out of a ſincere reſpect to the Proſperity of theſe Their Majeſties Plantations, we could not but be very deſirous that through the Favour of God and our Superiors, all due Redreſs might in a good happy ſeaſon be obtained; and the way of Governing *Engliſh* Subjects in Their Majeſties Dominions without an Aſſembly of the Peoples Repreſentatives baniſhed out of a World for ever.

Boſton in *New England*,
Jan. 27. 1690.

William Stoughton,
Thomas Hinckley,
Wart. Winthrop,
Barthol. Gedney,
Samuel Shrimpton.

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